

Emmanuel United Church of Christ

April 2022 Newsletter



Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!

PASTORS PAGE

Here we are, 3 weeks into the new venture of sharing a pastor, and I find myself being asked the same question at both churches, “How’s it going?”. For those who know and understand sports, the only analogy I can make is to say that we are only a few games into the season and it’s impossible to say anything more concrete than, “So far so good.” I’ve forgotten my preaching robe at St. John’s on a Sunday once already and had to turn around from Emmanuel’s parking lot and then the following week I forgot my binder and turned around while half-way to Emmanuel, so there has been improvement. In the meantime, I am getting to know the new names and connections at St. Johns and have already conducted a few visits to the Home and hospital. I am currently working on familiarizing myself with their organization and leadership styles and hoping to make a change or two to accommodate the sharing between the two congregations.

One such change is the combined Staff Meeting held at the end of March as we look to the future months for both congregations. In the coming weeks we will celebrate Palm Sunday and the Confirmation of 3 confirmands in Jackson Bowlus, Kizer Young, and Landen Worcester. I have extended an invitation to the leadership of St. Johns in joining us for this special occasion as new members in either congregation is cause to celebrate as the One Body of Christ. We will also have both congregations participate in the annual BAMA Cross Walk event on Good Friday, host an Easter Egg hunt here at Emmanuel on the Saturday before Easter as conducted by our Christian Education Committee, and then have Easter Breakfast served by the Men’s Breakfast Group on Easter Sunday prior to our worship service that day.

Beginning in May we will switch our start times with St. Johns and have service at 9:00am with Adult Faith Formation to follow. One of the concerns expressed about switching start times every 4 months has been the potential for confusion for members, guests, and visitors alike, however the more we talk about this change, the more prepared we will be for that transition. So I would encourage you to mark your calendars, put it into your phone as an alert, put a posted note on your fridge, or whatever you think will help you to remember and we will be perfectly fine. Also know that, should you prefer the 10:30 start time, you are more than welcome to attend St. John’s service at that time. Their fellowship time will take place prior to the service and you are welcome to attend that at 9:30 as well.

The more time we spend together, the more comfortable we will be when we find ourselves worshipping with one another for the first time on May 29th at St. Johns at 10:30am. This will be our first 5th Sunday together and there will be a carry-in meal to follow. I know that many of the members of St. Johns are excited about this opportunity to welcome Emmanuel into their worship space. Speaking of such hosting, our Lenten meals are seeing the highest attendance ever and I’m very thankful that the congregations of Emmanuel, St. Johns, and Bluffton Presbyterian have embraced this tradition over the years. It is so nice to come together as a church family outside of our traditional Sunday mornings and to see everyone interact with one another in a relaxed and comfortable setting. I would encourage anyone who has not yet made it to a meal to try to attend just one this Lenten season.

My hope and prayer is that your Lent is going well as we journey together with Christ to Jerusalem and the Cross. I would ask that you continue to keep our prayer concerns in your thoughts in the coming weeks and that you would pray for a peaceful end to the ongoing tragedy of warfare in Ukraine. May this not continue to escalate, may cooler heads prevail, and may God’s peace find its way back into Eastern Europe once more.

Blessings,

Pastor Jeremy

FROM YOUR CONSISTORY

April News Brief:

Thanks to everyone who helped at the Annual Fish Fry. We are blessed to have so many who volunteer their time making food, donating money and/or working at this event. We served approximately 355 meals (202 meals thru carryout and a little over 150 people dined in). Approximately \$2700 was raised which we put in the improvement fund (I don't have exact \$ amount as of this newsletter due to a couple outstanding bills). If you have not yet picked up your dish or crockpot please do so as soon as possible.

I also want to thank those of you who signed up to be on a Planning committee or volunteer your time as a team member for 2022. If you missed the sign up and would still like to help, contact Renee and she can add you to a list.

Pastor Jeremy started sharing services with St. John's UCC on 3/6. So far everything has been a smooth transition. **Just a reminder that our services at Emmanuel UCC now start at 10:30 instead of 10:00 with Adult Sunday school starting at 9:30 thru April 24. During the months of May-August of 2022, Emmanuel's services will start at 9:00 a.m. with Adult Sunday school right after.** The same sermon will be used at both churches.

"May the glory and the promise of this joyous time of year bring peace and happiness to you and those you hold most dear. And may Christ, Our Risen Savior, always be there by your side to bless you most abundantly and be your loving guide." -Author Unknown

God bless you always,
Julie Oberly, Consistory President

Financial Updates

Current Fund	Benevolence Fund	Overall Income/Expense
YTD Income \$20,742.39	YTD Income \$815.00	YTD Income \$26,718.28
YTD Expenses \$20,419.52	Budget \$875.00	YTD Expense \$21,204.51

Financial Secretary Position Available

Job Description as stated in the Constitution and By-Laws - The Financial Secretary will receive all monies and deposit said monies in the appropriate accounts, issue receipts for money received, and send statements to members. He/she will prepare a monthly report for the Consistory and an Annual Report for the congregation. (Complete job description in the office)

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. Ephesians 3:20-22

Church Updates

Emmanuel Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 16 at 10am



Invite your friends and family for a time of fun, fellowship, and food. There will be Easter crafts, snacks, and, of course, lots of eggs to hunt!

If you're interested in helping on the day of the event or by donating food items in advance, please use the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board or talk to Jen Mann for more information.



WOMEN'S OUTREACH

April 18- Put together disaster kits

May - Mystery trip???

MISSION

The Women's Outreach will be collecting money donations for disaster kits from April 3 – April 17. These kits will be put together at our meeting on April 18. Any monetary amount is welcomed. Please give money to Renee, Canda or Bev and the checks can be made out to Women's Outreach.

SUMMER CAMP

Templed Hills has a great summer camp. If you are interested please check out the website @<http://www.ohioucc.org/outdoor-ministries/> for more information on all the different camps they have to offer. If would like more information or have questions talk to Renee Caskie, rcaskie@thewavz.com, 419-890-6213.

Noisy Collection donations this year go to
Bluffton Lion's Club and Foundation
Bluffton, OH.

Bluffton Lion's Club serves – Community,
Religion and World Service Projects/Programs

We have a book that the Mennonite Home Communities gave to the church. It is an interesting history of the Mennonite Home and how it came to be and to grow. If you are interested please stop by or call the church office. You will be familiar with some of the names and faces in the book.



Holy Week

April 10 Palm Sunday
April 14 Maundy Thursday at 6:00pm
April 15 Good Friday Walk starts at 11:30am at St. Mary's.
We will conclude at St. John's UCC church
with no inside service
April 16 Egg Hunt at 10:00am
April 17 **EASTER**
10:30 am Easter Service/Communion
Breakfast at 9:30am

Christ the Lord has risen!



*The Easter Lilies on the alter are in
Honor of Our Risen Lord!
by the Faith Formation Classes
Easter Sunday (April 17)*



The Easter Flowers in the front of the church are
added by the following people (April 17)

*Wade Oberly
In Honor of my Family*

*Eddie & Bev Shepler
In Memory of Carolyn and Dan Oberly*

*Carolyn Shaw
In Memory of Charlie Shaw*

*Jim & Jane Dunlap
In Memory of Alvin Schroeder and Donald Dunlap*

*Denny & Jayne Caskie
In Memory of our Parents
In Honor of our Risen Lord!*

*Jay & Sherri Stratton
In Honor of Jesus*

*Dan & Renee Caskie
In Memory of Troy Caskie*

*Amy Muniz
In Memory of Lane Rossman and Diane New*

*Ron & Cindy Luginbuhl
In Honor of our Family*

*Ron & Canda Schmutz
Deron & Michele Geiser*

*Dave & Mary Fett
In Memory of Wayne & Janet Matter and Maurice & Eula Fett*



Prayer List

Janice Brewster	Fred Andrews
Sean Burrell	Lou Ann Leiber
Linda Steele	Jeta Fruchey
Kathy Hobensack	Timmy Betts

*We always thank
GOD for all of you
and continually
mention you in
our prayers.*

1 Thessalonians 1:2, NIV

April 3rd

John 12:1-8

April 17th

John 20:1-18

April 10th

Luke 19:28-40

April 24th

John 20:19-31



Praying the
SCRIPTURES



Community Events

Mennonite Home communities is having a Chicken BBQ fundraiser on April 30

Proceeds will support the purchase of a 6-person golf cart for elder/family outings around Bluffton to visit outdoor art, nature and familiar Bluffton sites. The golf cart will cost around \$19,000.

Tickets are \$9.00 and available from April 1 – April19. Curbside pickup at Bubba C. BBQ 158 N. Jackson St. Bluffton from 4-6 on April 30. If you would like more information or if you would like a ticket you can talk to our MHCO Service Group representatives, Val Eikenbary (419-205-8712), Kristen Parkins (419-302-3969), Mary Fett (567-204-3410), Canda Schmutz (419-549-0867) or through Facebook

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2022

The theme is **Sports Camp**.

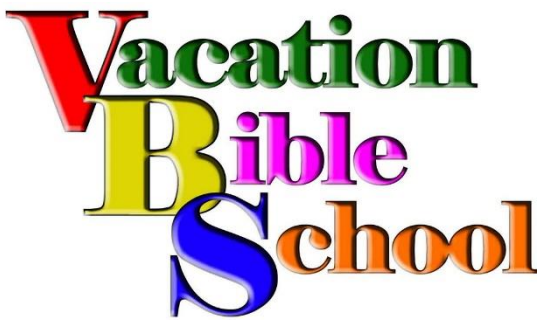
Hero – Jesus is my hero because He created me.

Endurance – Jesus live endures even when I make a mistake.

Alert – Jesus sees exactly what I need.

Ready – Just like Jesus, I am ready to respond.

Triumphant – I can be with Jesus forever!



Save the dates of Sunday, July 17 through Thursday, July 21, 2021 for the Bluffton Community Vacation Bible School.

Presbyterian Church hosts this year’s VBS. Further information will be shared as plans progress.

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor, Jeremy Mann	419-420-5052	Julie Oberly, Consistory President	419-236-3030
		Teresa Pinks, Treasurer	419-234-1817
Jen Mann, Faith Formation	717-813145	Dick & Connie Baker, Maintenance	567-712-0119
Renee Caskie, Secretary	419-890-6213	Church Number	419-358-1561

Consistory Members 2022

Elders: Jaret Geiser, Amy Muniz, Julie Oberly, Sherry Stratton

Deacons: Logan Fruchey, Kristen Parkins, Ron Geiser, Jesse Owsley



2022 Emmanuel UCC Calendar

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

					1 Jase Kiene Becky Leiber Deb Leiber	2 Jasonn Chatelain
3	4 Celsea Ruhlen Isabella Sampson Rowen Sampson	5	6 Dennis Caskie Makenzie Frankkart	7 Lou Ann Leiber Jay Stratton	8 Roxanne Williams- Chatelain Rick Krumrey	9
10 Worship 10:30am Connie Baker Steven Palte	11 Consistory 6:30 pm	12 Dick Baker	13 Landen Worcester	14 Maundy Thursday 6:00pm	15 Good Friday Crosswalk Service 11:30 (starts at St. Mary's)	16 Easter Egg Hunt 10 am Larry Eikenbary Chasity Ruhlen Reese Stark
17 EASTER Breakfast 9:30am Jill Rumer	18 Women's Outreach 7:00pm Karen Kopp	19	20 Charlotte Burkholder Renee Caskie	21	22 Earth Day Frank Andrews	23 Ryan Koenig
24 Holy Humor Sunday	25 Cade & Karsyn Garmatter	26 Brianna Ruhlen	27	29	30 Chad Reichenbach	

April Birthdays are on the
monthly calendar

Easter Joy

Jesus came to earth,
To show us how to live,
How to put others first,
How to love and how to give.

Then He set about His work,
That God sent Him to do;
He took our punishment on Himself;
He made us clean and new.

He could have saved Himself,
Calling angels from above,
But He chose to pay our price for sin;
He paid it out of love.

Our Lord died on Good Friday,
But the cross did not destroy
His resurrection on Easter morn
That fills our hearts with joy.

Now we know our earthly death,
Like His, is just a rest.
We'll be forever with Him
In heaven, where life is best.

So we live our lives for Jesus,
Think of Him in all we do.
Thank you Savior; Thank you Lord.
Help us love like you!

By Joanna Fuchs (www.poemsource.com)

